

The Story of the Nest Thief: A Plea from the Birds to Allah

Islamic Stories - Volume 19

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Chapter 1: The Man, the Nest, and the Divine Decree

The Habitual Offender: A Pattern of Theft

There once lived a man among the people who would frequently climb a tree and remove chicks from a bird's nest. This continued until one day, the bird complained to Allah Almighty regarding the repeated injustice.

The Divine Warning: A Conditional Judgment

Allah Almighty responded to the bird's plea with a decisive warning:

Allah:

“If he does this again, he shall be destroyed.”

Intent to Repeat: A Familiar Path Chosen Again

Oblivious or indifferent to the divine warning, the man took up his ladder and set off once more, intending to retrieve the chicks as he had done previously.

An Act of Charity: A Turning Point on the Way

When he reached the outskirts of the village, he encountered a beggar. Moved by a moment of generosity, the man handed over a loaf of bread from his own provisions. He then continued on his way.

The Climb: Violation Amid Witnesses

Upon reaching the tree where the nest lay, he positioned his ladder, ascended, and took the two chicks from the nest, while their parents watched helplessly.

The Birds' Petition:

Parent Birds:

“O Lord! You had promised us that if he came again, he would be destroyed. Yet he returned, took the chicks, and left unharmed!”

Divine Response: The Sanctity of Charity

Allah Almighty then revealed to the birds:

Allah:

“Do you not know that on the day My servant gives charity, I do not cause him to perish through an evil death?”

Interpretation: Mercy Deferred by Charity

The implication was clear: the man, though deserving of divine punishment, was spared solely because he had given charity that day. Thus, Allah's mercy shielded him from destruction on the basis of his charitable act.